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BOROUGH OF MORPETH



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

for the Year

1956

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1956.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Morpeth.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1956.

The vital statistics are rather less satisfactory than those for 1955. The standard birth rate is practically unchanged and is still higher than the corresponding figure for the whole of England and Wales. The still-birth rate is slightly higher but is less than that for England and Wales.

The crude death rate, at 21.11 per 1,000 is higher than in 1955 but owing to alteration in the comparability factor, the standard death rate is 13.3 per 1,000 compared with 16.61 in 1955. The Rate is, however, still higher than the corresponding national figure which, in 1956, was 11.7 per 1,000. The chief increases occurred in deaths from malignant neoplasms which numbered 33 as against 18, and deaths from diseases of the heart and circulation, which numbered 112 as against 92.

The number of infant deaths increased from 4 to 7 and the death rate from 19.51 to 34.48 per 1,000 live births, but it may be noted that 6 of the deaths occurred within the first two weeks of life and that the neonatal mortality thus accounted for more than 85% of the total.

The infantile mortality figure for England and Wales was 23.8 deaths per 1,000 live births.

There was a reduction in the number of new cases of, and deaths from, respiratory tuberculosis, 12 new cases and 2 deaths, compared with 17 new cases and 7 deaths in 1955.

It is satisfactory to be able to report substantial progress with the slum clearance programme which now promises to be completed in a much shorter period than was originally anticipated.

It is unsatisfactory to have to report that little progress appears to have been made towards the provision of the sewage works extensions so urgently required.

I should like to express here, my appreciation of the work of the Public Health Inspectors and the assistance readily given at all times by the officials of all departments of the Council.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council for the consideration they have shown me.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGREGOR,

M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.
Borough of Morpeth.



OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR.
	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector	FRANK K. PERKINS, M.I.M. & C.E., M.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector (Meat) ...	J. G. SIMPSON, M.A.P.H.I.
Offices of the Medical Officer	146, Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone	Ashington 2287.
Offices of the Public Health Inspector	36, Bridge Street, Morpeth.
Telephone	Morpeth 36.



SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the Borough remained unchanged in 1956 but the Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population was 10,800, which is an increase of 110 on the figure for the previous year.

Morpeth Borough is completely surrounded by the Morpeth Rural District for which it serves as a shopping centre and also as a centre of public administration. It contains the headquarters of the County Police Force and an old people's home and children's homes administered by the County Council.

Wednesday is Market Day and although the market is much less important than formerly the town is always thronged with people on these days. Many visitors come to Morpeth during the summer to admire the beauty of its park and to enjoy sport and relaxation on the tennis courts, bowling greens and the wide grassy slopes beside the river Wansbeck which flows through the town.

Many more pass through the town and at week-ends in the summer months the traffic problem is a serious one, for Morpeth acts as a kind of "bottle-neck" for motorists travelling up and down the Great North Road. Traffic jams are frequent and the main streets which are not adapted for modern traffic are often blocked with long streams of cars crawling along almost bumper to bumper. Transporters and lorries carrying loads of enormous weight and size are, also, frequently seen coming through the narrow streets and over the narrow old bridge and the vibration caused may well threaten the stability of the buildings near-by.

There is a growing and urgent need for an alternative route for long-distance traffic.

At one time most of the residential area lay to the North of the river but now the bulk of the population lives to the South, where large council housing estates have been developed and considerable private development has also taken place. Further development to the south is now being discouraged by the County Planning Authority and, unfortunately building to the north has been hampered by lack of an adequate water supply. It is to be hoped that this may be remedied in the future and that a better balance may then be obtained with the main shopping centre once more in the centre.

Area in Aeres	2,213
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident population mid-1956	10,800
Rateable Value	£118,329
One Penny Rate produces	£498-11-2
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956)	3,252

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	190	92	98
Illegitimate	13	8	5
	<hr/> 203	<hr/> 100	<hr/> 103

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	18.80
Standard Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 0.96)	18.00

Still Births:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	3	2	1

Still Birth Rate:	
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	14.56
Rate per 1,000 total population	0.28

DEATHS

	Total	Male	Female
	228	128	100
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	21.11		
Standard Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0.63)	13.30		
Death from Puerperal Causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List)			
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births			Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:

All Infants per 1,000 live births	34.48
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	36.84
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1956

Cause of Death	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 - 3 mths	4 - 6 mths	7 - 9 mths	10 - 12 mths	Total under 1 year
Birth Injury	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Haemolytic Disease of Newborn	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Abnormality	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Broncho Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total	3	2	1	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	7

The following table shows the comparative mortality rates during the past ten years:

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Infantile Deaths under 1 year	6	9	10	7	5	7	3	8	4	7
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births	29.70	43.60	54.35	34.48	23.81	33.49	15.79	38.10	19.51	34.48

The Registrar-General supplies the following:

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1956.

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	—
2. Tuberculosis (other forms)	1	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	2	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	3	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	2
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	4
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	12	7
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	14	16
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	26	14
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	4
20. Other Heart Diseases	35	25
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	4	3
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	3	2
24. Bronchitis	2	3
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	2
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	—	2
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	10	9
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	—
34. All other Accidents	1	2
35. Suicide	2	2
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	128	100

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	5
Illegitimate	—	—

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1956.

	Total No.	% of Total Deaths
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	112	49.12
Malignant Neoplasms	33	14.47
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	30	13.16
	175	76.75

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service in the Laboratory situated at Newcastle General Hospital. The extent to which the facilities have been utilised is shown below:

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Chest Physician	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	3	27
General Practitioners	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	—	7
Regional Hospital Board Physician	Laryngeal Swab for B. Tuberculosis	—	1
General Practitioners	Swabs for Vincent's Angina	—	3
General Practitioners	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	1	3
Regional Hospital Board Physician	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	—	1
General Practitioners	Swabs for C. Diphtheriae	—	3
General Practitioners	Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms ...	—	2
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms ...	1	3
General Practitioners	Urine for Pathogenic Organisms ...	1	2
General Practitioners	Blood for Widal	—	2
Medical Officer of Health	Potted Meat for Food Poisoning Organisms	—	1
Medical Officer of Health	Chinese Frozen Egg for Food Pois- oning Organisms	—	2

Ambulance Facilities.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council which is the Local Health Authority.

Six drivers are employed at the Morpeth Depot where there are three ambulances and a sitting case car.

The area served includes the Borough of Morpeth, the western part of the Morpeth Rural District and part of Castle Ward Rural District.

Nursing in the Home.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Northumberland County Council is the authority solely and directly responsible for Home Nursing Services.

Three nurses are stationed in Morpeth. Their work includes both general nursing and midwifery, and they serve the Borough and the adjacent parts of the Morpeth Rural District.

Maternal and Child Welfare Services.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council and clinics are held at the Health Centre in Gashouse Lane. The services include Infant Welfare, Antenatal, Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic and Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics and dental treatment for school and pre-school children and expectant mothers.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held once a month at Morpeth Common Camp.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.

Morpeth is supplied with water partly obtained from the Council owned borehole at Gubeon and partly from Tynemouth Corporation water undertaking. The water is treated by Chlorination.

During the year the supply has been adequate and satisfactory.

The average daily consumption from the Borough Undertaking was approximately 95,258 gallons and the daily intake from the Tynemouth supply approximately 232,742 gallons. the total daily consumption being 328,000 gallons.

Water mains at various places in the Borough were periodically flushed and all defects found, remedied.

During the year, due to additional house building, the following extensions were made to the Council's water mains:

411 yards of 6" diameter main.

521 yards of 3" diameter main.

Owing to the water mains in Newgate Street becoming unserviceable, the work of renewing the mains was undertaken in conjunction with the road improvement works carried out by North-umberland County Council. All Hydrants and Valves were renewed and services reconnected.

New mains provided: — 570 yards of 6" diameter.

— 530 yards of 4" diameter.

Bacteriological Examination of Water.

During the year 26 samples of water were taken in the Borough and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination as follows:

No. of Sample	Date Obtained	Place of Collection.	Result of Examination. Probable No. of Aerogenes Organisms per 100 ml. water
1.	5. 3.57	Fulbeck	Nil
2.	5. 3.57	Fulbeck	Nil
3.	5. 3.57	Fulbeck	Nil
4.	5. 3.57	Fulbeck	Nil
5.	22. 3.57	Fulbeck	Nil
6.	22. 3.57	Fulbeck	Nil
7.	22. 3.57	Fulbeck	Nil
8.	22. 3.57	Fulbeck	Nil
9.	19. 6.57	McGill's Yard, Bridge Street	Nil
10.	19. 6.57	High Stanners	Nil
11.	19. 6.57	Mitford Road	1
12.	19. 6.57	Cottingwood Lane	Nil
13.	26. 6.56	East Mill (private supply)	1
14.	26. 6.56	East Mill (springwater)	Nil
15.	26. 6.56	Dacre Street	Nil
16.	26. 6.56	Cutters Buildings	Nil
17.	27. 8.56	Lawford Mitford Road (private supply)	1
18.	27. 8.56	Lawford Mitford Road (private supply)	1
19.	27. 8.56	Lawford Mitford Road (well water)	5
20.	27. 8.56	Lawford Mitford Road (well water)	11
21.	25.10.56	Peacock Gap	Nil
22.	25.10.56	Peacock Gap	1
23.	25.10.56	Newgate Street	Nil
24.	25.10.56	Newgate Street	Nil
25.	13.12.56	High Stanners	Nil
26.	13.12.56	High Stanners	Nil

Chemical Analysis of Water.

Two samples of water were submitted to the Public Analyst for Chemical Analysis on 29th June and 22nd December respectively. The Analyst's reports are as follows:

Chemical Results.	Parts per million.	
	Sample No. 1	Sample No. 2
Total solids dried at 180° C.	226	227
Chlorine as Chlorides	16.0	17.8
Free Ammonia	Trace	Trace
Albuminoid Ammonia	Trace	0.06
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.40	0.20
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hours at 80° F.)	2.5	4.4
Total Hardness	156	170
Permanent Hardness	71	95
Temporary Hardness	85	75
Lead and Copper	None	None
Iron	0.1	0.1
Appearance and Colour (Haze degrees 25)	Pale yellow and clear	
Appearance and Colour (Haze degrees 60)		
Smell and Taste	Satisfactory	Clear and pale orange yellow Satisfactory
Microscopical examination of deposit	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
P.H. value	7.2	7.0

Report on Sample No. 1.

This sample of water is of satisfactory organic purity. It is free from deposit, odour or taste: its colour however is somewhat high. I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for drinking and domestic use.

(signed) W. Gordon Carey.

Report on Sample No. 2.

This sample of water is of satisfactory organic purity. It is free from taste or odour and has been adequately filtered. The colour is characteristic of a moorland supply. I am of the opinion the water is suitable for a Public supply.

(signed) W. Gordon Carey.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending 31st December 1956.

	No. of Inspections during year.	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws.	No. of Informal notices served.	Defects remedied by Informal Action.	No. of Statutory Notices Served.	Defects remedied by Statutory Action.	Legal Proceedings.
HOUSING							
Structural Defects	678	42	17	41	1	—	1
Defective Food Store	678	3	17	3	1	—	—
Dampness	678	7	17	7	1	—	—
Overcrowding	678	—	17	—	1	—	—
WATER SUPPLY							
Insufficient	26	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory	26	—	—	—	—	—	—
DRAINAGE							
Insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory	9	7	—	7	—	—	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES							
Insufficient	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective	7	7	—	7	—	—	—
GENERAL							
Shops Acts	14	1	—	1	—	—	—
Food Premises	332	18	—	18	—	—	—
Dairies	17	1	—	1	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	1198	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	28	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Bins	65	65	2	65	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	5	5	—	5	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	4	3	—	3	—	—	—
TOTALS	2384	158	19	157	—	—	—

The following is an analysis of the works effected:

Sanitary Conveniences	By Informal Action	By Statutory Action	Total
Privy Ashpits and Privies abolished	—	—	—
Privy Ashpits and Privies repaired	—	—	—
Pail closets abolished	—	—	—
Pail closets repaired or reconstructed	2	—	2
Water closets provided	—	—	—
Water closets repaired	7	—	7
No. of above for which grant was given under P.H.A. 1936 Section 47	—	—	—
Refuse bins provided	6	—	6
Refuse bins renewed	65	—	65
Drainage			
New drains constructed	1	—	1
Drains repaired and reconstructed	3	—	3
Drains cleansed	2	—	2
Additional gullies provided	—	—	—
Old gullies replaced	1	—	1
Scullery sinks provided	1	—	1
Sink wastes repaired	4	—	4
Sink waste pipes trapped	1	—	1
Yards repaired or reconstructed	—	—	—
Water Supply.			
Sources closed or discontinued.	—	—	—
New Services provided—			
(1) By Local Authority	—	—	5
(a) Number of Houses	—	—	5
(2) By Private Owners	—	—	85
(a) Number of Houses	—	—	85

Structural Defects.

	Total		Total
Ceilings renewed	2	Fireplaces renewed	2
Ceilings repaired	1	Inspection Chambers repaired	1
Cooking ranges renewed	1	Roofs repaired	5
Cooking ranges repaired	2	Sub-floor ventilation improved	1
Chimney stacks repaired	3	Ventilation pipes repaired	1
Dampness remedied	4	Walls repointed and repaired	5
Doors repaired	2	Walls replastered	9
Eavesgutters renewed	1	Window cords renewed	2
Eavesgutters repaired	4	Water systems repaired	1
Floors repaired	1	Washing accommodation repaired	1

Complaints.

Two hundred and fifty six complaints were recorded during the year, all of which were dealt with. It is again pleasing to report that practically all works of repair or reconstruction needed to properties were achieved informally. Only one case required the Council to resort to Statutory Action and issue an Abatement Notice, which was outstanding at the end of the year. Two informal Notices were also in abeyance awaiting results of further negotiations with the owners of the properties concerned.

Other Visits and Inspection under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Infectious Diseases	1	Places of public entertainment	2
Disinfections	27	Markets	30
Public Sanitary Conveniences	28	Licensed premises	11
Courts, yards and passages	26	Temporary housing sites	9
Water courses	54	Offices	2
Sewage disposal plants	84	Schools	3
Refuse disposal grounds	46	Testing of new drains	84

Smoke Abatement.

There were no cases of excessive emission of Smoke requiring Statutory Action, during the year.

Verminous Premises.

Infestations of vermin pests were promptly dealt with as they arose. The treatments against these is by spraying with approved insecticides and the application of naked flame, as appropriate. The following table shows the cases dealt with during the year.

Species.	Number of cases dealt with.
Cockroaches	13
Earwigs	1
Fleas	1
Flies	1
Lice	1
Woodworm	4
	<hr/>
	21
	<hr/>

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Three premises are licensed by the Council for the sale of pets. Two of the traders are from outside the Borough. The premises were regularly inspected and no cases arose requiring official action.

Rag Flock Act, 1951.

One building is registered for the storage of rag flock but was not in use during the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Destruction of rats and mice was fully maintained during the year. Some details of the work done are shown in the following table.

Surface Treatments.

	Local Auth. Property	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agricultural Property	Total
Inspections	80	1539	554	18	2191
Treatments by local authority	9	32	9	—	50
Treatments by private persons	—	—	2	1	3
Treatments by Area Agricultural Executive Committee	—	—	—	2	2
Notices served	—	—	1	—	1
Notices complied with	—	—	1	—	1

Sewer Treatments.

Two treatments of the Borough sewerage system were carried out during the year in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Infestations Branch.

Destruction of Moles.

These are dealt with by a specialist Mole catcher, employed by the Council. A number of out-breaks during the year were promptly dealt with.

Despatch of Domestic Animals.

During the year 9 domestic pets were dealt with, some at the request of their owners and some at the request of the Police Authorities.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewage disposal works continued to function to full capacity and occasionally under great difficulty.

The continually expanding building programme in the Borough is placing a severe strain on the existing plant and it is hoped that the proposed extensions and modernisation of the plant will not be long delayed. During the year, the sewerage system was extended as follows:

Challoners Gardens — Council Housing.

Surface Water Sewers:	145 yards 9" diameter.
	163 yards 6" diameter.
Soil Sewers:	373 yards 6" diameter.

Refuse Collection.

Refuse is collected by direct labour, daily, and deposited at Deuchar Park tipping site, where the work of filling and levelling made rapid progress.

A good deal of piping work was again necessary on the Churchburn to keep pace with the tipping. Apart from a large quantity of paper in the refuse, which is always a troublesome factor, there was no serious nuisance from the tip, and the occasional outbreak of fire promptly dealt with, a pump and hose being permanently on the site for such an emergency.

Rivers and Streams.

The river Wansbeck and other streams running through the Borough were regularly surveyed during the year and cleansing operations undertaken when necessary. No serious nuisance arose however.

Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites in the Borough.

Swimming Baths.

There are no swimming baths in the Borough.

Schools.

There are five Primary schools, one Secondary school, one Grammar school for boys, one High school for girls and a Commercial College within the Borough.

All schools are equipped with water carriage drainage connected to the main sewerage system, and supplied with water from the Council's mains.

Several inspections were made during the year, and conditions found satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1948

There are, on the Borough Register six factory premises without mechanical power and forty-seven with mechanical power.

The following table gives details of inspections and results, during 1956.

1. Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	45	23	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	2	2	—	—
Total	53	34	1	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act ... not relating to outwork	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	4	—	3	—

SECTION D

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1956.

Houses completed during the year.

(a) By Local Authority	5
(b) By other Bodies or Persons	85

Closing and Demolition.

(1) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	3
(2) Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	—
(3) Houses closed, not demolished	7
(4) Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	—

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts:

(1) By informal action	35
(2) By owners following statutory notice	—
(3) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(4) Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	—

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, HOUSING ACT, 1949

	No. of Separate Houses
(1) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	8
(2) Applications rejected	1
(3) Applications approved	7
(4) Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme	91
Approximate average grant approved per house	£75

Slum Clearance.

Considerable progress was made with the slum clearance programme during the year.

Twelve areas involving 51 houses were formally declared, by the Council, to be Clearance Areas and, in 10 cases, Clearance Orders were made; in one case the Council decided to purchase the property consisting of 3 houses, and in one case the order had not been made by the end of the year. Four orders were confirmed by the Minister and two were, with the Council's agreement, not confirmed, the owners being allowed to retain the properties for purposes other than housing.

Official objections were received in respect of 3 of the remaining four areas and Public Inquiries were held by inspectors, appointed by the Minister, whose decision was still awaited at the end of the year. It was, in fact, received, in January, 1957 and was to the effect that the Minister confirmed the Clearance Orders in all four cases.

Action was also taken under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 or Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 to deal with 7 individual houses. Closing Orders were made in respect of these 7 houses but in four cases the owner was permitted to use them under temporary licence for purposes other than housing and in one case the Council decided to negotiate to purchase the house which together with 2 adjoining houses, had originally been scheduled for inclusion in a Clearance Area.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

There are five registered dairy premises and twelve licenced distributors of milk in the Borough.

Four licences to retail Tuberculin Tested Milk, seven to retail Pasteurised Milk and five to retail Sterilised Milk were issued. Two distributors of Pasteurised Milk who have dairy premises outside the Borough were granted Supplementary Licences. Only one distributor in the Borough deals with ungraded milk, produced within the Borough.

All dairies, and distributors premises were inspected periodically and found generally satisfactory.

Milk Sampling.

Eight samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and proper processing, as shown hereunder:

Class of Milk	No. of Samples taken	Test applied	Passed	Failed
Tuberculin Tested	4	Methylene Blue	4	—
Pasteurised	4	Methylene Blue and Phosphatase	4	—
Total	8		8	—

Ice Cream.

There are thirty-five premises in the Borough registered for the sale of ice-cream. The premises were regularly inspected and no contravention found.

Meat Inspection.

During the year inspection of meat was given full attention. The number of animals slaughtered was as follows:

Cattle	1450
Sheep	4561
Pigs	1015
Calves	44
Total	7070

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned whole or in part.

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No. Killed	1406	44	44	4561	1015
No. Inspected	1406	44	44	4561	1015
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.					
Whole Carcases condemned	—	—	3	8	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	322	—	—	205	70
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	23.0	—	6.8	4.67	7.0
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole Carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	25	10	—	—	3
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	1.78	22.7	—	—	0.3
Cysticercosis:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

The weight of meat, organs and offals condemned and surrendered during the year was:
18 tons 10 cwt. 1 qr. 0 stns. 12 lbs. 8 ozs.

Slaughterhouses and Licensing of Slaughtermen.

During the year the Slaughterhouses at Staithes Lane were fully maintained and every attention given to the requirements of law and the trade. The major works carried out during the year were the alterations to the Carriages to give better segregation of the animals and to facilitate the roping of cattle.

The buildings were repointed, and roofs repaired and all eavesgutters and downspouts overhauled. A new hose pipe was obtained for yard washing, and a new glazed sink provided in the boiler room.

Fifteen Slaughtermen's licences were issued during the year.

Food Premises.

There are one hundred and forty seven food premises on the Borough Shops register and the various types are as shown below:

Business	Number	Business	Number
Butchers	11	Fishmongers	2
Bakeries	5	Poulterers	1
Confectioners	23	Groceries and Provisions	39
Chemists	3	Hotels and Licensed Premises	22
Cafes and Snack Bars	12	Mineral Water Works	2
Cooked Meats	3	Wines and Spirits (Off-Licence)	6
Dairies	5	Fish Fryers	4
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	9		

Of the foregoing, the following are Registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955:

Business	Number	Business	Number
Butchers' Shops	11	Ice Cream Shops	35
Preserved Meats Shops	3	Ice Lolly Manufacturers	3
Fried Fish Shops	4		

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

Inspection of Registered Food Premises.

During the year three hundred and thirty two inspections were made of registered food premises. The standard of Hygiene was found generally satisfactory.

Travelling shops were also given attention. By discussion and advice, many works of improvement were gained and it is pleasing to note that traders generally were most co-operative. The following shows the various improvement works effected:

Work Done.	No.	Work Done.	No.
Washbasins and washup sinks provided	17	Preparing rooms entirely re-built, re-equipped ...	2
Hot water installed	12	Cooking apparatus remodelled, re-sited	3
Food storage improved	3	Ventilation improved	1
Clothes hanging accommodation provided	2	Refrigeration installed	2
Premises redecorated	6		

Educational Activity (Food).

Educational activity in food hygiene in the Borough has taken the form of personal visits by the Public Health Inspector, and on-the-spot talks and discussions with Managements and staffs, have proved most effective and well worth the effort.

Food Inspection.

During the year, the following foodstuffs were examined and surrendered, and destroyed:

Commodity	Quantity	Reason for Condemnation	Weight	
			lbs.	ozs.
Beef (imported)		Bone Taint	253	0
Bacon		Contamination	63	12
Beverages	1 tin	Contamination	1	0
Cheese		Moulds	23	0
Cream	3 tins	Blown tins	1	2
Fruits	104 tins	Blown or damaged tins	190	6
Fish	4 tins	Blown or damaged tins	3	4
Meats	41 tins	Blown tins and decomposition	172	5
Milk	4 tins	Blown tins	3	6
Pork (imported)		Bone Taint	35	0
Soups	4 tins	Leaking tins	6	3
Savouries	3 tins	Moulds	29	10
Vegetables	42 tins	Blown and leaking tins	86	0
			Total Weight	868 0

Disposal of Condemned Food.

Condemned food was disposed of partly by incineration, and partly by conversion into manures, as appropriate. The latter is treated with a distinctive indelible dye, prior to removal.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1947-52.

At the present time there is no ice cream manufactured in the Borough. Periodical inspections of retailers premises were made, and tests carried out on refrigerating units for temperature-hold. None tested was found defective.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is now provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

Table showing analysis of notified cases of Infectious Diseases under age groups.

Disease	Age unknown	Under 1 year	1—2 years	3—4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	15—24 years	25—34 years	35—44 years	45—54 years	55—64 years	65—74 years	75 years & over	Total	Admitted to Hospital
Measles	—	6	30	37	81	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	154	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
A. P. Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

It will be seen from the above table that, apart from Measles, notifications of infectious disease were very few in number and require no comment.

Diphtheria.

For the eighth consecutive year no case of this disease has occurred and it is now ten years since any death was attributed to this cause.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 160 pre-school children and 1 school child completed a course of primary immunisation, while 48 pre-school and 51 school children received re-inforcing injections.

At 31-12-56 it was estimated that the immunity indices for the different age groups were as follows:

Children under 1 year	18.50%
Children aged 1-4 years	82.67%
Children aged 5-14 years	66.05%
All children under 15 years	66.11%

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1956.

Age Groups	NEW CASES					DEATHS				
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Total	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Total
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 - 4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 14 years	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 24 years	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
25 - 34 years	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
35 - 44 years	2	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	1
45 - 54 years	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
55 - 64 years	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
65 - 74 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 years and over	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	8	—	—	12	1	—	1	—	2

7 of these cases were institutional.

Neither death was notified prior to death.

(1 death occurred in an institution)

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population—0.18.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis, per 1,000 of the population in England and Wales-0.109.

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1956.

Site	MALES							FEMALES							
	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75 +	Total	10 - 14	15 - 24	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75 +	Total
Mediastinum				1	1		1								
Cervix					1						2	1		1	4
Thyroid					1		1								
Oesophagus				1			1					1			1
Lymphatic and Haematopoietic Tissues	1						1	1					1		2
Mandible					1		1								
Bronchus....			1	2	1		4								
Heel			1				1								
Colon				2	1	1	4								
Eye												1			1
Kidney									1						1
Rectum						1	1								
Breast										1				1	2
Stomach			1		2		3							1	1
Anus												1			1
Prostate					1	1	2								
Unknown....								1						1	1
Totals	1	—	3	5	7	3	19	1	1	1	2	4	1	4	14

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population—3.05.

Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus—0.37 per 1,000.

Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus in England and Wales—0.407.

Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms of all other sites—2.68 per 1,000.

Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms of all other sites in England and Wales—1.668.



